

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-02 DHA-02 /051 W

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R 091321Z FEB 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDON DERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 66

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: POLL SHOWS MAJORITY PROTESTANTS FAVOR LIMITED POWER-SHARING

REF: BELFAST 17

1. ITV PROGRAM WEEKEND WORLD AND SURVEY ORGANIZATION MARPLAN POLLED 520 ULSTER PROTESTANTS ON THEIR ATTITUDES TOWARD POWER SHARING AT GOVERNMENT LEVEL AND LOCAL LOYALIST POLITICIANS. THIRTY ONE PER CENT SAID THEY WOULD SUPPORT POWER SHARING GOVERNMENT. THIRTY TWO PERCENT SAID THEY WOULD DISAPPROVE POWER SHARING BEING WRITTEN INTO CONSTITUTION BUT WOULD BE PREPARED TO GIVE EMERGENCY COALITION GOVERNMENT A CHANCE. THIRTY SEVEN PER CENT REJECTED ANY IDEA OF POWER SHARING. THERE WERE APPARENTLY NO "DON'T KNOWS." IN CONTRAST TO ABOVE SAMPLE WHICH CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER POLL IN BELFAST SUNDAY NEWS (REFTEL) 42 PER CENT OF PROTESTANTS SAID THEY HAD MOST CONFIDENCE IN REVEREND IAN PAISLEY, 34 PER CENT IN WILLIAM CRAIG AND 16 PER CENT IN HARRY WEST. IT IS UNCLEAR WHOM THE REMAINING 8 PER CENT FAVORED.

2. CONGEN DOES NOT PLACE GREAT CONFIDENCE IN RESULTS POLL. LIMITED SIZE SAMPLE, CONTRAST BETWEEN ATTITUDES ON POWER SHARING VERSUS MOST TRUSTED POLITICIAN AND PROPENSITY OF ULSTER PEOPLE TO PROFESS MODERATION WHEN QUESTIONED (ESPECIALLY UNCLASSIFIED

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BY "FOREIGNERS") CASTS DOUBT ON ACCURACY AND VALIDITY SURVEY.

HOWEVER SAMPLE OF ATTITUDES ON SOME FORM OF POWER SHARING
AGREES WITH OTHER, ONLY EARLIER POLL AND CANNOT BE COMPLETELY
DISCOUNTED. VERY FEW PROTESTANTS WANT CONTINUED DIRECT RULE.
SPICER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, COALITION GOVERNMENT, PUBLIC OPINION POLLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BELFAS00066
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760048-0913
From: BELFAST
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760269/aaaacivd.tel
Line Count: 65
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 BELFAST 17
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 SEP 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 SEP 2004 by meiwc>; APPROVED <09 SEP 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POLL SHOWS MAJORITY PROTESTANTS FAVOR LIMITED POWER-SHARING
TAGS: PINT, UK
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006